

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

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SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1061

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, BE

SUBJECT: INFLUX OF EX-SOVIET JEWS INTO BELGIUM FROM ISRAEL

REF: A) BRUSSELS 7017 B) BRUSSELS 7224 C) STATE 206318

SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHED DE CABINET WARNS THAT INFLUX OF SOVIET JEWS INTO BELGIUM IS BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE TO HANDLE. HE SAYS ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE IN ALLOWING INDIGENT SOVIET JEWS TO LEAVE ISRAEL TO BECOME PUBLIC CHARGES ELSEWHERE. HE ALSO SUGGESTS US HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEM SINCE ITS SOVIET POLICY HELPED CREATE IT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING ARRANGED FOR OTHER PURPOSES SEPTEMBER 19, CHEF DE CABINET OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (VAN BELLINGHEN) RAISED WITH US MATTER OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES NOW FLOODING INTO BELGIUM (REFTELS A AND B). VAN BELLINGHEN SAID SOVIET JEWS WITH  
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FRESH ISRAELI PAPERS WERE "POURING" INTO BELGIUM AS RESULT OF RECENT PUBLICITY, INDICATING BELGIUM'S WILLINGNESS TO HARBOR TRANSIENTS. HE SAID NUMBER AS OF YESTERDAY MORNING WAS MORE THAN 900 (UP FROM ESTIMATED 600 ON SEPTEMBER 12) AS RECENT ARRIVALS HAD BEEN AT THREE-FIGURE RATE DAILY. VAN BELLINGHEN SAID, "THIS IS GETTING TO BE A CRISIS SITUATION FOR US."

2. HE SAID PRIVATE RELIEF AGENCY CARITAS HAD DONE "REMARKABLE JOB" IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM FOOD AND SHELTER FOR INDIGENT NEWCOMERS AND GOVERNMENT WAS PUTTING UP FUNDS TO ASSIST CARITAS. "BUT THIS IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN SUSTAIN INDEFINITELY," VAN BELLINGHEN SAID. HE SAID AN ATTEMPT WAS BEING MADE TO STOP FURTHER ARRIVALS (REF B), AND GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNHCR AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT RESOLVING "A DEVELOPING SOCIAL PROBLEM THAT IS BEYOND BELGIUM'S MEANS TO SOLVE ALONE".

3. VAN BELLINGHEN THEN MADE CLEAR WHY HE HAD RAISED MATTER. "WE FEEL THAT ISRAEL HAS ACTED IRRESPONSIBLY IN HANDLING PAPERS TO SOVIET JEWS AND THEN LETTING THEM LEAVE ISRAEL AND DESCEND UPON SUCH COUNTRIES AS AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM," HE SAID. "THEY ARRIVE OSTENSIBLY IN TRANSIT TO SOMEWHERE-THE US AND CANADA, USUALLY-BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THEY HAVE NO FIRM DESTINATION. WE CONSIDER THE U.S. HAS A RESPONSIBILITY HERE. ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS KNOW OF COURSE THAT NOT ALL JEWS ALLOWED TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION AS RESULT OF THEIR PRESSURE ARE GOING TO STAY IN ISRAEL." VAN BELLINGHEN DID NOT ASK FOR SPECIFIC STEPS BY EMBASSY OR USG.

4. WE ARE INFORMING BELGIAN AUTHORITIES OF US POLICY AS SET FORTH IN REF C. FIRESTONE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SREF, BE  
**To:** STATE INFO BONN  
FRANKFURT  
GENEVA  
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